

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 08339 191023Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /097 W
-----056902 200247Z /75

R 181634Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHC 9001
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 8339

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, AG, TU, MO, MR, SS
SUBJECT: UNLIKELY PROSPECT OF TUNISIAN MEDIATION IN
WESTERN SAHARA DISPUTE

REF: ALGIERS 2897 (DTG: 141655Z NOV 77)

1. WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY TUNISIAN INTENTION TO MEDIATE IN THE WESTERN SAHARA DISPUTE, DESPITE AMBASSADOR MAAMOURI'S REMARKS REPORTED IN REFTEL. IN FACT WE WERE TOLD RECENTLY BY A HIGH MOFA AND SECURITY OFFICIALS THAT GOT CONTINUES TO VIEW PROBLEM AS ONE WHICH THE PLAYERS THEMSELVES MUST RESOLVE.

2. THIS IS NOT TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT GOT IS DISINTERESTED IN OUTCOME OF DISPUTE OR UNAWARE OF ITS SERIOUSNESS. TUNISIA CLEARLY WOULD LIKE TO SEE DISPUTE RESOLVED QUICKLY BECAUSE OF DANGERS IT PRESENTS TO AREA STABILITY IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TUNIS 08339 191023Z

GENERAL AND TO TUNISIAN INTERESTS IN PARTICULAR. GOT DOES NOT HAVE PARTICULARLY HIGH REGARD FOR OULD DADDAH REGIME NOR DOES IT HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS IN MAURITANIA. ALGERIA AND MOROCCO PRESENT DIFFERENT SITUATIONS, AND TUNISIA DOES HAVE CLOSE TIES AND/OR COMMON INTERESTS WITH BOTH COUNTRIES. GOT SHARES WITH KING HASSAN'S GOVERNMENT THE SAME GENERALLY MODERATE OUTLOOK, AND THERE IS A LONG

HISTORY OF TUNISIAN-MOROCCAN COOPERATION ON BUTH BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ISSUES. AT SAME TIME, TUNISIA'S RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA ARE IMPROVING AND GOT GIVES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO TRANS-TUNISIA-ALGERIA-SICILY GAS PIPELINE, AS AGREED UPON LAST SUMMER. THIS PROJECT IS OF PARTICULAR ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE TO TUNISIA AND GOT IS OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT OPEN CONFLICT COULDLDELAY COOPLETION OF PROJECT OR EVEN PUT WHOLE PIPELINE SCHEME INTO QUESTION.

3. AS TO BOURGUIBA'S TELEGRAMS TO BOUMEDIENE, HASSAN AND OULD DADDAH, EMBASSY HAS NOT GIVEN THIS INTERVENTION MUCH IMPORANCE. SIMILAR MESSAGES HAVE BEEN SENT IN PAST WITHOUT ANY MEANINGFUL GOT FOLLOW UP AND WITHOUT ANY APPARENT RESULTS. MAIN EMPHASIS OF THREE IDENTICAL MESSAGES APPEARED TO BE APPEAL FOR RESTRAINT AND FOR RECONCILIATION FROM ALL PARTIES, AND THIS HAS BEEN STANDING GOT POLICY SINCE EARLY 1976.

4. ALSO, WE NOTED THAT MESSAGES WERE SENT VIRTUALLY ON EVE OF ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE WHICH OPENED IN H TUNIS ON NOV 12. WE KNOW FROM PERSONAL DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS THAT GOT WAS DEEPLY COONCERNED THAT SAHARA ISSUE MIGHT BREAK INTO OPEN DURING CONFERENCE. SUCH OPEN DEMONSTRATION OF HISTILITY BETWEEN ALGERIA AND MOROCCO WOULD HAVE DOOMED ANY CHANCE THAT CONFERENCE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TUNIS 08339 191023Z

COULD BE DECLARED A SUCCESS, AND TUNISIA, AS HOST, VERY MUCH SAW ITS PRESTIGE ON LINE. WE KNOW THAT TUNISIA WAS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT CONFERENCE COULD INDEED CLAIM THAT IT HAD ACHIEVED ITS PURPOSE OF "REESTABLISHING ARAB SOLIDARITY" AND BOURGUIBA'S MESSAGES SEEM TO US TO HAVE BEEN LITTLE MORE THAN ONE ASPECT OF THIS GENERAL POLICY.

5. EMBASSY IS UNABLE TO COMMENT ON SIGNALS BOUMEDIENE MIGHT HAVE INTENDED TO GIVE IN HIS RESPONSE TO BOURGUIBA. WE SERIOUSLY DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT GOT HAS ANY INTENTION OF GETTING ITSELF EMBROILED IN THIS DANGEROUS CONFLICT, NO MATTER HOW MUCH TUNISIA WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT RESOLVED. WE ALSO THINK IT UNLIKELY THAT TUNISIA WOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN FORMULATING ANY SOLUTION WHICH INVOLVES "SACRIFICE" OF MAURITANIA, AND THAT THIS ALSO WOULD BE LEFT UP TO ALGERIA AND MOROCCO.
MULCAHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN INTEREST REPRESENTATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, SELFGOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TUNIS08339
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770430-0535
Format: TEL
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771139/aaaabhjd.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c9a13816-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ALGIERS 2897
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 520662
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNLIKELY PROPSECT OF TUNISIAN MEDIATION IN WESTERN SAHARA DISPUTE
TAGS: PDIP, AG, TU, MO, MR, SS, WI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c9a13816-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009